

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 161548Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4566

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMCONSUL ZURICH

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, AU, LS

SUBJ: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR'S STATE VISIT TO LIECHTENSTEIN

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY INTERRUPTED HIS ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR SKIING VACATION IN VORARLBERG FOR A STATE VISIT JAN 7-8 TO NEARBY LIECHTENSTEIN IN RESPONSE TO LONG PENDING (SINCE 1970) INVITATION FROM GOVERNMENT OF LIECHTENSTEIN (GOL). PROGRAM FOR TWO-DAY STATE VISIT, FIRST OF ITS KIND IN LIECHTENSTEIN'S HISTORY, INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH HEAD OF GOVERNMENT KIEBER AND RULING PRINCE FRANZ JOSEF II, A TOUR OF THE MINI STATE (22,000 INHABITANTS) AND A PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. ACCORDING TO KREISKY'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR AMBASSADOR THALBERG (WHO WILL BECOME AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO BERN IN FEBRUARY), VISIT WAS LARGELY OF CEREMONIAL NATURE, DESIGNED TO UNDERLINE TRADITIONAL CLOSE TIES BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND LIECHTENSTEIN. IN ABSENCE OF ANY MAJOR ECONOMIC ISSUES, AUSTRIANS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONTINUATION OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH FIVE THOUSAND AUSTRIANS WORK IN LIECHTENSTEIN (2,200, AS INHABITANTS, BALANCE AS DAILY BORDER-CROSSERS), AND KIEBER REGISTERED LIECHTENSTEIN'S CONCERN OVER SEVERAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN VORARLBERG WHICH WOULD DEBOUCH HEAVY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VEHICULAR TRAFFIC INTO LIECHTENSTEIN.

3. THALBERG INDICATED THAT KREISKY PROMISED CONTINUATION OF AUSTRIAN EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENT FOR LIECHTENSTEIN PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL OF EUROPE. TOPIC OF POSSIBLE LIECHTENSTEIN MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING UN, REPORTEDLY WAS NOT RAISED.

4. AUSTRIANS HAD CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT GOL DESIRES TO PROJECT IMAGE OF GREATER INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY IN FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT IS PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS OBJECTIVE. IN AFTERMATH OF VISIT, AUSTRIAN MFA HAS NOTED LIECHTENSTEIN PRESS REPORT THAT LIECHTENSTEIN WOULD BE ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN VIENNA, ITS SECOND AFTER BERN, BUT HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUBJECT WHICH DID NOT COME UP IN COURSE OF KREISKY STATE VISIT. HUMES

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